

ECHO 2015 OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes 6-2-11

Present: Co-Chair Bob Staples and member Jennifer Newell, and staff Linda Price and Lisa Krieg.

Excused: Co-Chair Doug Forsyth

Absent: Members Ann Way, Helen Kutz, Debra Krittenbrink, Teresa Capps, Ginny Corson, and April Doshier

Others present: Travis Humphrey with Norman Regional Health System, and citizen Mark Campbell.

The meeting was called to order by Bob Staples at 4:05 p.m.

UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT (ESG) & CONTINUUM OF CARE APPLICATIONS

The contracts for the 2010 ESG program ended Monday, May 31, 2011. All agencies completed their proposed activities and expended all funds. The 2011 ESG applications were as follows: Bridges (\$50,000), Food & Shelter for Friends (\$50,000), East Main Place (\$50,000), Thunderbird Clubhouse (\$50,000), The Salvation Army (\$25,000), and the Women's Resource Center (\$25,000). COCAA also submitted an application. Because of delays at the federal level, no funding announcements have been made. However, it was announced that the rules for this round will be the old rules. A second funding round may occur later in the year with new regulations that will be similar to the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program. Forty percent (40%) of the funds will be required to be used for prevention.

The Continuum of Care renewals were funded and both of the new applications were funded as well.

The application was submitted electronically for a total of \$261,746. This included:

- \$79,368 for the renewal of the Shelter Plus Care application for HOPE Community Services
- \$23,786 for a new Supportive Housing Program Bonus for Food & Shelter for Friends
- \$51,337 for a renewal of the Supportive Housing Program Outreach grant for Food & Shelter for Friends
- \$63,360 for a new Supportive Housing Program Chronic grant for Food & Shelter for Friends
- \$43,895 for a renewal of the Supportive Housing Program SSO for East Main Place

UPDATE ON STATUS OF STIMULUS FUNDING FOR THE HOMELESS PREVENTION AND RAPID REHOUSING PROGRAM

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 included funding for a new program titled the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program. The Norman/Cleveland County Continuum of Care committee voted to have the City of Norman make application for the group, and a proposal was submitted to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC) in July for \$498,000 +. ODOC forwarded the contract to the City in October. This is a three year program and the City is 21 months into the program. An annual progress review was completed in December 2010 by ODOC. It was noted that 60% of the funds are required to be spent by July 2011, and we will meet that requirement. Food & Shelter has substantially increased the quantity of clients receiving these services after some reorganization was made. \$298,830 has been expended.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

The January 2011 POINT IN TIME COUNT OF THE HOMELESS was discussed.

HUD mandates that a count of the homeless be taken every two years the last week in January. Norman does a count every year in January, with the 2011 count taken from midnight January 26/27 through midnight January 27/28.

The count indicated 816 homeless persons. However, the official HUD count of those meeting its definition of homeless is 619. Attached are handouts from the meeting including:

- 2011 Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Survey
- Point in Time Summary for OK-504 for Norman/Cleveland County COC
- HIC – Unmet Need chart
- Spreadsheet of shelters/homeless housing

The question was raised about the definition of a Safe Haven. A safe haven is a shelter that is usually single-room occupancy (SRO), and has few rules. They are often called “wet shelters” because they will allow stays for homeless persons who are still drinking or using drugs. The reasoning for this is to at least get the chronically homeless into shelter that is not so intimidating with the hope that they will start to access services and potentially get into more permanent housing.

It was also announced that Food and Shelter is writing a Sarkey’s grant to build four SRO units on their site on West Comanche.

- The next quarterly meeting will be at 4:00 p.m. on September 1, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.